

THE IVY LEAGUE MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE



DELEGATE  
GUIDE TO  
SUCCESS

ILMUNC

THE PHILADELPHIA MARRIOTT HOTEL  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

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# RESEARCH

By Yen-Yen Gao

Conducting thorough research is the foundation of being a successful delegate at all levels of Model United Nations simulations. An accessible starting place for research is the committee background guide. Committee chairs spend several months carefully writing the background guide to construct an in-depth discussion of the committee topics. Often, the background guide will contain information on past UN actions and country blocs. The bibliography of the background guide also includes many references that can form the foundation of your individual research.

Upon receiving your country assignment, you can start by researching background information on your country. This includes information on its history, economy, geography, demographics, government, political allies, and past actions within the UN. Use this information to begin understanding your country's perspective and how it would approach the topics you will be discussing in committee. The most skilled delegates don't have to think about how their country would react when presented with an issue in committee because they already have an instinctive response supported by deep research of their respective country.

Helpful sites for researching countries include:

- CIA World FactBook
- BBC Country Profiles
- Department of State Country Profiles

Next, research the committee. The United Nations is composed of six organs. The organs most commonly found at Model United Nations conferences are the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council. Each committee within these organs serves a different function within the mission of the United Nations. With the exception of the Security Council, the objective of all other committees during conference is to create and pass resolutions. It is imperative to understand the function of your committee so you know which actions have already been taken and which are reasonable for you to recommend. Visit the website of the UN and the website of your specific committee to understand their official mission and their projects. Some committees may not have official websites and in those cases it is still helpful to find whatever information you can on the official

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actions of the body you will be participating in. For example, if a crisis committee is set in the presidential cabinet of a certain country then make it a point to research the members of the cabinet and what past actions the body has taken.

With an understanding of your country and your committee, the next step is to research the topic. This is arguably the most important step and therefore you should devote a majority of your time to gaining an in-depth understanding of the topic at hand. One challenge many delegates face in their research process is deciding where to start in terms of chronology of the topic because many of these topics go back hundreds, if not thousands of years. The best-prepared delegates spend time going through early history of the topic because an understanding of this history can often be the key to forming effective solutions; however, beyond establishing a general understanding of the early history, more time should be devoted to understanding the more recent history of the topic. It is important to understand the topic from the perspective of your country, which can be achieved by searching for past actions taken by your country's government in relation to the topic and looking for news pieces from media outlets based in your country that give a sense of how citizens from your country view the topic. If your country is not involved in the issue, think of ways your country can be involved. The best delegates not only understand the topic from their country's perspective, but also have a general understanding of how other major countries view the topic. It is essential to know which countries are most deeply affected by, involved in, and influential in the topic. These three different categories are not guaranteed to have overlap. For example, in the issue of water distribution in the Nile River, all countries containing the river are deeply affected, and yet Sudan prefers to stay minimally involved in the issue because the status quo is in their interest, while countries further downstream are more involved, advocating for change. Despite all of this, the most influential country in this entire issue may be China because of their economic influence in the region. Great delegates and great diplomats understand all of these angles, in addition to how their country fits into the picture, and can leverage this understanding to forge solutions.

Your research should be geared towards finding solutions, rather than just topic background. This means both searching for solutions that have

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already been proposed and making an effort to be thinking about potential solutions as you gain an understanding of the existing problems. Choose research pieces from a variety of sources to gain multiple perspectives. Generally, credible news outlets are good sources of information because these topics are chosen based on their pertinence to current events. Think tanks and academic publications are also good resources and are filled with interesting ideas that experts have proposed in dealing with the topics you will be discussing in committee. Investigate these ideas in-depth, sift out their strengths and weaknesses, and you will have the knowledge to speak and write intelligently on your topic.

Helpful news sites and think tanks:

- Brookings
- Gallup WorldView
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
- International Institute for Strategic Studies
- BBC
- Al Jazeera
- The Economist
- New York Times
- The Wall Street Journal
- Bloomberg

During committee sessions, you will not have access to computers, so it is important to bring a well-organized binder with your research. With conference binders, quality matters more than quantity. Make sure all of the information you include is relevant and useful. It is important to keep your binder organized, such as with bookmarks and dividers, so you can easily reference research during committee sessions.

A checklist for binders:

- Background guide
- Relevant past actions of the committee and of your country



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- A list of current events related to the topic (it's helpful to have this visually organized as timeline)
- Information on the position of major countries involved
- A list of the solutions you would like to propose with supporting arguments (be sure to not bring pre-written resolutions, this is against ILMUNC policy and will be met with potential disqualification from competition)
- Plenty of paper to take notes on committee proceedings

Following these guidelines will put you on track to master the research process.



By Kyle Bigley

An experienced delegate will know his or her country policy inside and out, and be able to leverage the nuances of the policy to his or her advantage. A delegate who is interested in winning an award uses policy as the foundation of debate—without a thorough understanding of country policy, all that occurs during committee is moot.

The number one rule regarding policy is to stick to the nation you represent and be as accurate as possible. This often means putting aside your own personal opinions on a topic in order to inhabit the mind of a diplomat from your assigned country. Because the chairs who will judge your performance wrote the background guides and know the individual policies of each of the specific members of the committee, any aberration from policy will immediately set off an alarm in the chair's mind, leading to an evaluation that the delegate in question does not know his or her policy. For instance, if a committee discussing nuclear disarmament found itself with North Korea and the United States in a bloc, the chairs would immediately realize that one of the delegates has not been true to his or her policy. Due diligence in the weeks leading up to committee can successfully deter such occurrences.

The best way to successfully crystalize policy is to craft an accurate, well written position paper. After having done the research, a successful delegate will then attempt to formulate the information and policy of his or her country into a series of attainable objectives in the position paper. This might even entail writing out a list of solutions your country is willing to support and alternatively not support with reasoning for each. By laying out the positions and logically working through the ways in which the committee can take action in achieving those goals, the delegate will be able to successfully stick to policy come committee time.

Delegates who want an additional leg up in policy will know not just their own policy, but the policy of other delegates in their committee. In doing research and knowing where other delegates should stand in regard to policy, a successful delegate will already know which delegations to target as partners for drafting resolutions in committee. Furthermore, the delegate who takes this extra step can preempt other delegates by seeing in which areas their policies overlap, a necessary step in creating voting blocs.

More than just knowing the ins-and-outs of his or her particular policy, a delegate should try to understand why a country holds this position. If a delegate is able to put him- or herself in a nation's shoes to understand the logic behind a country's policy, he or she will have the advantage come committee time in trying to get other delegates

# PREPPING FORTHURSDAY NIGHT

to follow the same logical path and write successful resolutions. It is important to note that there are often many great solutions to a problem, but successful delegates have the ability to sift through those solutions and only support the ones that align with their country policy.

By Eric Helgott

## Utilizing Note Passing Before It Begins

Thursday night committee session, your first session of the conference, is one of the most crucial in the span of the weekend. This session will set the tone for how you are perceived by your fellow delegates and your chairs, so it is important that you come into committee prepared. One of the best ways to do so is to copy down a number of notes for note passing before the conference. These notes should be sent to other delegates once they have given their first speeches in order to establish an early connection for bloc building. This note could read like the following: "Hey, great speech! It seems like we have a lot of similar ideas on the topic. Do you want to discuss them during the next unmoderated caucus?" Don't copy down the same note each time – replace words where you see fit and decide if you want to include a meeting location as well.

Aside from quality, you will want to ensure that you have the proper quantity of notes. Too many, and you will have wasted time before the conference writing notes you may not use. Too few, and you will be scrambling to write more notes in committee. Base the number of notes you write off of the size of your committee. A General Assembly of 300 delegates would warrant around 25 notes, while an Economic or Social Council of 100 delegates would warrant closer to 10 notes. There is no steadfast equation to the number of notes you write, so your best indicator is to stop when you feel comfortable with the work that you have done. Take advantage of notes and you will enter committee ready to build a bloc and more prepared to win.

## How to Get Your Ideas on Paper

Entering Thursday committee session prepared to debate either topic is essential to your success as a delegate. However, you cannot write a resolution before this committee session. Any clauses in a resolution must be written during the conference, so you should consider other ways of getting your ideas organized before committee on Thursday. The best way of doing this is creating a bullet-point list of your ideas, in addition to notes on various countries you would like to work with. Although you will likely have to deviate from this list as the committee develops, this will serve as a good basis for discussion topics within your bloc later on, in addition to being a great source for talking points in speeches.



### Nerves Are Your Worst Enemy

Above all else, stay calm and confident when going into committee! Other delegates will only see you as an important force in committee if you act like one. And, the chairs will notice you if you come into committee ready to meet delegates and debate either topic. If you're dealing with nervousness, recognize that it's all in your head and that there is no downside to giving your best effort in committee. Keep busy before committee starts and stay busy once it begins.



By Alex Kaplan

While speaking in front of a large committee room may be daunting at first, there are several tips and tricks to make sure that your speech is as convincing and confident as possible. In this next section, we will explain how to best prepare for speeches, how to effectively utilize your speaking time, and how to pitch a resolution.

## Your First Speech: Tips and Tricks

- Relax and focus

For many delegates, it can seem as if the first speech will define your delegation's position for the rest of the conference. This is not true. Although the first speech is important in order to make a good first impression on your fellow delegates and your chairs, you will have plenty more opportunities to showcase your ideas and speaking ability throughout the conference. Here are some pointers for your first speech:

- Clearly establish your delegation's position

Your first speech will likely be off of the speaker's list: an ordered list of delegations that may speak about a topic of their choosing. Since the speaker's list does not require speaking about a specific topic, this is the perfect opportunity to speak about your research and reiterate some of the material in your position paper. Don't be afraid to take firm stances and back up your delegation's claims. Show your delegates as well as the Dais staff that you are well prepared and intend to take this conference seriously.

- Be sure to follow parliamentary procedure

During your first speech, following rules and procedures is likely just as important as your speech's substantive content. Delegates who demonstrate their understanding of parliamentary procedure will immediately gain more attention from the chairs as well as their fellow delegates. If you are on the speakers list, make sure to yield your time at the end of your speech. Failure to yield (either to the chair, to questions, or to another delegation) will result in two thirty-second comments in direct response to your speech by a delegation chosen at the chair's discretion. This gives two other delegations the opportunity to effectively dismantle your argument after your speech—not a good scenario for your first speech! When in doubt, make sure to end your speech with the phrase, "I yield my time to the chair," and debate will then return to the speakers list.

# SPEAKING

## Moderated Caucuses vs. the Speakers List

Contrary to the speakers list, moderated caucuses require delegates to respond to a specific topic. For example, if the committee is currently in a ten-minute moderated caucus with thirty-second speaking time on the topic of state sovereignty rights, then each delegation that requests to speak must address the topic of state sovereignty rights. If a delegation fails to discuss the topic at hand, the chair may rule the comments “dilatatory” and require the delegation to stop speaking. Also, speaking about an unrelated topic may frustrate your fellow delegates, which would make coalition-building much more difficult. Instead, use moderated caucuses as opportunities to further flush out your delegation’s ideas and address how this topic would be used in a possible working paper or resolution.

## Pitching the Resolution

After several committee sessions, you will encounter an opportunity to address or present draft resolutions on the committee floor. This is an excellent opportunity to prove your expertise and craft a great speech. If you are one of the chief writers of the resolution, you will likely have a great amount of knowledge on the substance of the resolution, and pitching your resolution is the best way to showcase that knowledge. This can be one of the least stressful times to speak during the conference—take advantage of it!

## In Closing

Here are some tips that cover both general public speaking and public speaking specific to Model UN:

- Make your speeches substantive. This means filling them with important information that showcases your depth of thought on the issue and often sacrificing quantity of ideas in a speech for quality of ideas.
- Look fellow delegates and chairs in the eye as if you were having a conversation.
- Pace yourself and speak clearly. Public speaking tends to push people towards speaking more quickly than they even realize, so make sure to take deep breaths throughout your speech and pause between points.
- Try not to read your speech verbatim, but if you need to keep track of your talking points, have a notecard that you can periodically reference.
- If you’re inexperienced, try to practice a few speeches before conference so you can figure out where you might fumble and gain an understanding of how you speak out loud. This may sound obvious, but giving a speech out loud vs. in your head can be very revealing.
- If you lose your train of thought don’t panic. Simply collect yourself and move on to the next logical point.

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- Relax and don't worry about mistakes! Model UN is first and foremost a forum for debating important issues in a productive way, not a public speaking competition.



# BLOC BUILDING

By Eric Helfgott

## What is a Bloc?

Blocs are the groups of delegates that form in a sort of coalition, in order to draft a resolution. The process of this formation occurs organically with delegates surveying the policy positions of other delegates by listening to speeches and having discussions in unmoderated caucuses. Once this occurs, delegates have the ability to decide which countries they feel most closely aligned with. Blocs will most often be determined by country policy, which is why it is helpful to have a grasp of your own policy as well as the policies of other countries.

## How to Use Your Notes

As mentioned in Prepping for Thursday Night, notes are a great way to make yourself known to many delegates in a small amount of time. They are also extremely helpful when trying to build a bloc. Use them to find other delegates with similar policies as your own. Also, once your bloc is built, utilize notes to keep track of what your bloc is doing during committee. If there is ever a need to meet outside committee, write more clauses, or discuss changes to the resolution, notes are a great way to inform your bloc.

## Your First Unmoderated Caucus

Your first unmod is very important in creating your bloc. Hopefully, the notes you have sent to other delegates asking them to meet with you have paid off. During this unmod, your main goal is to get as many people as possible to speak with you in a circle. This way, the chairs will see you in the front of the group helping to facilitate the flow of discussion. Try to allow other people to speak for most of the unmoderated caucus – you should be starting the discussion and moving it forward. At all times, write down any important notes and which countries are in your initial circle. At the end of the unmod, make sure to establish the group of countries as a preliminary bloc and agree on another meeting at the next unmod or the end of committee.

## Keeping Track of Your Bloc

Besides notes, there are other ways to make sure your bloc sticks together. One of the best ways is collecting phone numbers early on in the conference to stay in touch with your bloc. When delegating clauses to write or deciding when to meet, texting a delegate personally goes a long way to keep the bloc strong and connected. Also, don't feel uncomfortable pulling some of the members of your bloc outside during committee if needed. However, keep in mind that some chairs will not allow this if you're not on a double-delegate committee.

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## Widening the Circle

In an ideal committee, the main competition will be building another bloc. But, there are instances when a direct competitor is vying for power in your bloc. When this happens, there are a couple of tactics to remain a leader in your bloc. If this delegate is aggressive and trying to control the conversation, suggest that other delegates start expressing their ideas. Take the spotlight off of the aggressive delegate and onto the group as a whole. You can also try to widen the circle. If you feel that a delegate is gaining too much power, recommend that the circle move out wider to include everyone who is in it. There could be delegates on the outskirts that feel excluded. All in all, your main goal is to be a diplomatic leader of the bloc and ensure that other delegates respect you. An aggressive delegate should seem aggressive to the other members of your bloc, and you should stay above the fray.

## Keeping Peace within the Bloc

There will always be disputes within your bloc, but there are a number of ways to resolve them. If some bloc members have a problem with your role in the bloc, don't be afraid to address it head on with the bloc. If it gets to a critical point, it is possible to leave the bloc and take a leading role in another one. This method is particularly difficult later on in the conference, and should only be done when you know that you can go to another bloc and still be a leader of it. Otherwise, try to stay with your bloc.

If there is an argument between two other bloc members, there are two ways of dealing with it. You can either directly intervene or do nothing, and there are pros and cons to each option. If the argument is about who writes which clause, for instance, try and intervene to keep peace between the members. However, if two delegates are arguing about who should speak during a question and answer session, do not intervene. Choosing one delegate over another can often give the impression of ulterior motives, so leave the discussion to the delegates themselves. A good rule of thumb is to stay out of arguments that would necessitate choosing one person over another, and involve yourself in arguments that would allow you to establish your leadership in the bloc without antagonizing anyone.

## Closing Thoughts

The best way to be a bloc leader is to gain the respect of your fellow delegates. This means listening intently to their ideas and being able to respond, as opposed to simply pushing your own ideas. It also means respectfully

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disagreeing and making compromise wherever it is possible. The best delegates are able to effectively communicate their points without overpowering the conversation and are able to express disagreement while keeping the tone diplomatic and keeping the bloc moving towards a draft resolution.



# RESOLUTIONS

By Madison Harrow

## Writing the Ideal Resolution

Resolutions are written recommendations for how to address specific issues and suggestions for what actions should be taken going forward in these areas. These resolutions represent the culmination of all the discussions, speeches, and negotiations in a committee.

Before resolutions are voted upon, they are referred to as draft resolutions. These documents are written by either a single delegation, or several delegations in collaboration. The authors of resolutions are referred to as its sponsors. The strongest draft resolutions are usually co-sponsored by several delegations, as this allows for a vast array of solutions and supporting details to enter the resolution.

In order for a draft resolution to be presented to the committee, it must gain a certain amount of support from other delegations, which are referred to as the signatories. (The conference will set what percentage of the room must sign in order for the draft resolution to be submitted for debate.)

## The Do's and Don'ts of Writing

The best resolutions are those that follow the resolution format completely. Draft resolutions contain three main parts, all technically contained within one very long sentence. First is the heading, which introduces the committee, the topic, the sponsors, and the signatories. The second part contains the preambulatory clauses, which state the specific issues that the committee is trying to solve and justifications for why the issue is important enough to be addressed by a resolution of the respective committee. It often refers to and cites past resolutions and international action that have attempted to alleviate the problem. Think of this as the section that sets the stage for the rest of your resolution. These clauses begin with an underlined preambulatory phrase and end with a comma. The third part contains the operative clauses, which lay down the solutions the sponsors recommend to address the issues referred to in the preamble. These clauses are numbered, begin with an underlined operative phrase, and end with a semicolon (except for the final one that ends with a period).

An ideal resolution will have fewer preambulatory clauses than it has operative clauses, to demonstrate that the sponsors have thought of an extensive set of solutions to the stated problems. An ideal resolution will also have extremely detailed operative clauses, that answer directly who, what, when,



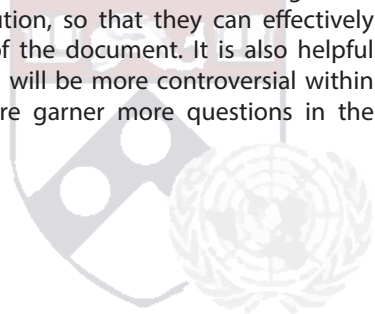
# RESOLUTIONS



where, why, and how. For example, if a resolution proposes a new program, it should explain how the program will be funded, created, and managed. We recommend that operative clauses contain sub-operative clauses so as to allow for thorough explanation. The best resolutions will also cite sources, to prove the document's legitimacy. The resolution should also be realistic, making sure that the proposed actions are within the jurisdiction of the committee in which the resolution is being presented.

## Presenting Your Resolution

The most successful resolution presentations are those in which the delegates speaking talk slowly, clearly, and comfortably in front of the room. Also, the speakers should have thoroughly researched their country's positions and opinions and every facet of the issue at hand so as to be fully prepared for questions of any kind. The best presenters must understand the logic and reasoning behind each clause in the resolution, so that they can effectively answer questions regarding every section of the document. It is also helpful to ask yourself which parts of the resolution will be more controversial within the context of the committee and therefore garner more questions in the presentation period.



# BETWEEN COMMITTEES

By Kyle Bigley

Using the time between committees can be a vital step for any delegate wishing to take his or her Model United Nations experience to the next level, from both a competitive and a personal level. The time between committees can be used to formulate friendships with other delegates, which is essential to a complete ILMUNC experience. It can also be used to further understanding between delegates within a committee context and elaborate on policy positions. Delegates who use this time can gain a competitive advantage in creating collaborative relationships with other delegates. Beyond meeting new people, learning about places all over the world, and making friends, such relationships can be vital in looking for support for resolutions later on in committee.

Delegates can also use the time to write resolutions with other members of the committee, but this can only happen if the chairs have allowed writing between committees. If a resolution seems pre-written immediately at the start of the committee session, it may strike the chair's notice and be disbarred. Whether delegates are able to write or not, all delegates should try to keep their bloc members informed on what they're thinking and what they're planning to do so that the bloc may present a unified front. Maintaining bloc unity, both within committee and outside committee, is vital for a resolution to have any chance at success.

Also, don't feel pressured to be doing something related to committee during every committee break. ILMUNC is an amazing place to meet new friends or talk to the Penn students who staff and run the conference. We also always provide opportunities for delegates to send rose and teddy grams to their friends and get cool ILMUNC swag every year, so make sure to give yourself a break between some committee sessions.



# CRISIS GUIDE

By Cynthia Ding and Krishnan Sethumadhavan

## Writing Crisis Notes

In any crisis committee, a large part of competing consists of writing crisis notes. This includes:

- Personal crisis notes: traditional private notes that make use of portfolio powers to execute actions, or to send questions and inquiries to the crisis staff.
- Joint crisis notes: a great tool to form alliances and make crisis notes even more powerful by having someone else with a different set of powers sign on, or to reinforce your own portfolio powers as well.
- Communiqués: primarily used to communicate personally to people outside of the committee room.

Through crisis notes, delegates are able to use the full extent of their imaginations and creativity in efforts to shape the path of the crisis committee as a whole. The best, most effective crisis notes should fulfill the following requirements:

1. **Specificity and Clarity.** There is no greater frustration than being a delegate who is consistently ignored by the crisis staff when sending in note after note. The best way to ensure a response is to be specific and detailed, but also very clear in writing your note. For instance, if a delegate sent a note in saying: "Send soldiers in to secure the area," crisis might simply respond, "Two soldiers were sent in. They failed to accomplish the mission." This note lacked important details such as number of soldiers, time frames, location, a clear plan, and exit strategy. However, if they were to write "Send 200 soldiers to the Sheraton, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from the closest army base at 18:00 local time on January 25th to control a student uprising without use of deadly force. Once secured, hold the area until further instructions are given," they would have a much greater chance of success. However, keep in mind that clarity and brevity are essential as well. This is not the time to prove your knowledge of SAT vocabulary words, but rather to get the point across as easily as possible.

2. **Adherence to Portfolio Powers.** The point of personal crisis notes are for delegates to be able to fully exercise powers unique to their position. If a delegate is the Minister of Education, refrain from any actions relating to military affairs for example. Instead, fully flesh out your own portfolio powers. Initiate an education campaign with a specific agenda, build schools, even issue propaganda - every role has unique powers that can be just as useful even if they do not initially seem so, and the crisis team always loves to see delegates trying as hard as they can to embrace their roles. If a delegate attempts to do something outside of their power range, the request will almost always be refused, so knowing the nuances of each position is very important.

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3. Accuracy. Furthermore, the crisis team wants to see that delegates are well researched and know their positions and the committee topic through and through. As such, notes are expected to be accurate. Should they deviate too far, they will most likely not yield a satisfactory response from the crisis team. This is especially important for historical committees, as delegates must make sure to stay accurate to the era. For example, beware of anachronisms such as the use of air force in an American Revolution committee.

4. Creativity. The odds are that in a typical crisis committee of around 15 delegates, there will be repetitive responses, especially when a new crisis breaks. In addition to being detailed, clear, concise and accurate, the crisis staff loves to see creativity! Interesting and unique notes will distinguish a delegate better than even the most detailed of generic notes. Creative titles, plans, strategies, and use of portfolio powers are much appreciated. Invent an imaginary staff member to receive your notes, or a spouse that is secretly a spy - in a crisis committee, almost anything goes as long as you can make it somewhat plausible.

Crisis notes are a delegate's most valuable weapon, as they can be used to demonstrate the extent of a delegate's research and knowledge about the committee, creativity, and ability to influence the direction of the crisis track. If crisis at large is reacting to something you sent in or made happen through a crisis note, consider that a very good sign things are going well. All in all, have fun with crisis notes! Topics for crisis committees are often very unusual and allow a lot of room for creativity and for the crisis track to be taken in surprising directions, so take advantage of this freedom.

## Speaking in Moderated and Unmoderated Caucuses

### Moderated Caucuses

Crisis committees, because of their small size, are unique in that delegates will most likely get to speak quite frequently if they want to. Therefore, the quantity of speeches made matters far less than the quality. Crises tend to move pretty quickly, so in order to maximize the efficacy of the 30 seconds or minute of speaking allotted, it is essential to be clear and to the point. Do not waste time on unnecessary salutations and acknowledgments, but rather get to the meat of what you are trying to say about the issue at hand. This is especially important in bringing up any ideas you might have that are uniquely yours for solving the problem, and to tie that in with any written document that might exist at that time, so that the other delegates, along with the chairs, know what ideas are yours when the time to pass committee wide directives comes.

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In addition, crisis committees are great in that almost every position has a slightly different view, if not entirely unique. As such, don't spend your speech repeating what others have already said in the same moderated caucus, but try to bring up a new view point, a new suggestion, or even critique something that has already been said. Also, to



make sure that your ideas are heard as soon as possible after a new crisis update, try to motion for the next moderated caucus if you have a good, clear, idea of what you want to say so that another delegate with similar ideas doesn't beat you to the punch.

Lastly, be personable and diplomatic. Other delegates will feel less inclined to work with someone who seems overly aggressive and pushy, and this especially holds true for unmoderated caucuses, which we will discuss next.

## Unmoderated Caucuses

Unmoderated caucuses are difficult because it often evolves into heated yelling matches of delegates trying to speak over one another, or people fighting to merge directives into one while trying to maintain a presence as a leader. The most important thing to remember in unmoderated caucuses is to stay calm and reasonable. Being friendly can go a long way in working with other delegates and forming blocs, which is especially useful later on in voting on directives and getting things passed quickly. A lot of directive writing in response to new crisis updates can occur in unmoderated caucuses, so it is always important to make sure that you are contributing your ideas and writing them down, or at least have your contributions be known. Don't allow yourself to be intimidated or drowned out in particularly intense committees. Moreover, remember that stepping outside of the room to get a private word with your fellow delegates is entirely permitted and can likely be highly beneficial to your cause. Just be careful to be in the room if something important is about to occur to ensure that no direction is decided upon without you.

## Writing Crisis Directives/Press Releases/Communiques

While it can certainly be tempting to get caught up in one's own crisis track and personal notes, it is important to remember that even in a crisis committee, like a GA, the ultimate goal is to get action items passed to move the committee forward. From an awards perspective, crisis directors tend to take committee-wide notes far more

seriously than individual crisis notes and give them far more weight in determining the direction of the committee. Moreover, chairs are often unaware of individual delegate's crisis tracks until the end of each committee session, so passing directives can be a great way to show chairs that you are taking on a leadership role in the committee. Committee-wide notes can take three major forms:

- Directives. These are the bread and butter of any crisis committee and are similar to resolutions in a traditional Model UN committee in that they contain calls to action and attempt to put forward steps to address an issue or problem facing the committee. They differ from resolutions, however, in that they lack fluff. There are no pre-ambulatory clauses in a directive and each action clause is generally either simply bulleted or numbered, with few sub-bullets or sub-lettering underneath. Chairs are generally rather flexible when it comes to how directives are structured and will often allow multiple formats for directives to be submitted. Because the body you will be simulating is likely capable of executing on actions, it is important that your directive contain action words that directly order things to happen, rather than call for them to happen.
- Press Release. In the face of any crisis, the first thing the government does is get in front of the media and say that everything is under control. A press release acts in much the same way in that it allows the committee to get information out to the public and reassure it in the face of an emergency. The press release itself does not take any action, but instead simply seeks to inform the population. The format for a press release is fairly simple and usually just has the name of the committee preceding the text of the release written. Although Press Releases may seem like a waste of time for a serious crisis competitor, they have two major advantages: (1) they do not require signatories to pass and can generally be brought to the table very quickly; (2) they allow delegates who either do not have an idea on how to deal with the crisis or find themselves out of their league on portfolio powers to contribute to the conversation and have the chair and crisis director take notice. A well-drafted Press Release can even end a crisis before it begins!
- Communique. A communique is highly similar to a Press Release in that it is information being distributed on behalf of the entire committee, but the major difference is that a communique is directed towards a person or a particular group as opposed to the general public. Usually, communiques are used to request or convey information or to ask for a meeting with a body or individual. A similar format is usually also used in writing these documents, with a recipient and sender (the committee) being specified. The advantages of a Press Release hold true for communiques in that they are easy to pass and are useful for delegates who are a bit lost. Moreover, a pertinent communique can actually shape the course of a crisis track by inviting in a speaker or gaining information that is highly relevant to the committee as a whole.

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## Getting It Signed and Passed

While Press Releases and communiques are generally uncontroversial and can be passed without signatories, directives are another story altogether. The nature of crisis committees mean that they can quickly become a race to see who can turn in the first decent directive in reaction to a crisis break with the requisite number of signatories (usually set by the chair in the first session). There are, broadly speaking, two ways to go about getting your particular directives signed and passed:

- Play the game. As soon as a crisis break is announced (or preferably before if you can anticipate one), begin drafting up a directive that seeks to address some particular aspect of the situation, preferably one that synergizes with your portfolio. It is highly important that you focus on a particular aspect because that way if mergers must occur in the future (which we will cover later), you provide value added in a specific and actionable manner. It is advisable from the beginning of the committee session that you build up a miniature bloc of either like-minded delegates or delegates who simply don't care. Utilize this bloc as auto-signatories and as a way to reach the required signatory count set by the chair. Do not fall into the trap of passing your directive around the room and hoping for the best as this will only result in your directive constantly being lost in the mess of papers present in the committee room. Instead, pass your directive to the specific members of your bloc and ask for it to be returned upon getting a signature. Be advised, this strategy requires you to be not only among the fastest thinkers in the room, but the fastest writers as well and can therefore be difficult, especially for newer crisis delegates.
- Break away. This strategy is more risky than playing the crisis "game" because chairs and crisis directors may not recognize the work you are putting in and may dock you for seemingly not participating in committee. In this strategy, your objective is not to always be reacting to the various crises being presented to you, but rather to respond and deal with the overall, holistic issues facing the committee and focusing on efforts that deal directly with your portfolio powers that you can complement through private notes. Through this method, you can slowly but steadily chip away at the issues facing your committee without power delegates noticing the fact that you have amassed power and made progress until it is too late. This strategy is great for newer delegates because it makes you less of a target until your plans can be fully implemented.

## Merging with Staplers

Often when there are many directives on the floor, the chair will ask delegates to



merge similar directives to reduce paper flow and redundancy. As you've probably seen in GAs, merging brings out the worst in delegates because it forces people to either subsume their ideas under somebody else's banner or attempt to go it alone and fail. In response to this dilemma, many crisis delegates have taken to utilizing staplers as a quick and easy way of merging directives, without actually having to re-write documents and assign credit to delegates. You will often see similar directives stapled together with a few small amendments and passed wholesale in committee – while it may be tempting to simply have your directive stapled in exchange for a guaranteed pass; there are some elements to consider in this process.

The first thing to consider is that by merging in such a manner, you cause your directive to lose its distinguishing factors and merely become one directive in the crowd. There are a few ways to counteract this problem: one is to consistently use distinctive paper and pen colors throughout each committee session to ensure that chairs and crisis directors know which directive in a merged directive is yours. The second is to ensure that your directive is the longest and most content-filled out of all those being merged and has your character's name written at the top. This will demonstrate to both the chair and crisis director that your directive forms the backbone of the merged directive. Another surprisingly easy way to come out ahead on mergers is to be the one who brings the mini-stapler to committee and use it in mergers to staple your directive to the top. The directive on top of the pile will make the first impression on chair and crisis director and can give you a lot of credit.

The second thing to consider is that mergers in such a manner are very often sloppy. Little care is usually put into ensuring that each directive actually complements the other directives being stapled because the emphasis is on getting the directive to the chair to be passed. This means that often times, a delegate who carefully reads a merged directive can spot numerous contradictions whether they be logical or operational in the directive. If your directive either was not selected for a merger or competes with a merged directive, it will be worth your while to pick out all of the technical flaws and contradictions between the merged directives and bring them up in debate to discredit the directive as a whole. On the flip side, if you are taking part in a staple merger, you need to ensure that at the very least no element of the merger directly contradicts the other.

#### Crisis-Specific Parliamentary Procedure:

Although crisis committees theoretically use the same parliamentary procedure as non-crisis committees, the results can often look very different. This is because chairs generally have far more discretion in crisis committees and often are more relaxed in their parliamentary procedure. This can create an opening for skilled delegates to really succeed in a crisis committee through two motions that are generally only



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allowed in crisis committees:

- Motion for a Round Robin. Motioning for a round robin tactically makes you look like a team player while also giving you the opportunity to learn about your fellow delegate's positions on the matter at hand. Use the time before and after you talk in a round robin to continuously send notes to delegates of similar viewpoints to secure their support. Round robins also have the additional benefit of allowing you to stall for time, but I would use them sparingly towards this end. Generally, they should be used when the conversation and debate is being dominated by a few voices as they draw in the voices of all delegates, making them a good tool against power delegates.
- Motion for a Straw Poll. Motioning for a straw poll vote on either a motion or a directive can help you gauge the attitude of a room without suffering the defeat of having your motion or directive formally rejected. To the more insightful, a straw poll vote can also give you valuable information on who has already made up their mind and who is still deciding between the two positions based on body language. For example, hesitancy is raising one's hand or looking around heavily are generally signs of a mind that can still be convinced. Use the results of a straw poll vote to find out which delegates to target through notes so your directive or motion is sure to pass.

In the end, crisis committees are only as fun as you make them, so our final piece of advice to you is to always have fun in crisis and remember that collaboration will always serve you better than shouting!





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